

# Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework

## Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2020 – 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Virtual Public Meeting

#### **Welcome and Introductions** - Secretary Matthew J Strickler.

The event began at 12:30 pm. The meeting was held by Webex. In attendance were Secretary Strickler, Rear Admiral Phillips, Appointed and Invited Members of the Technical Advisory Committee(TAC), and their designated representatives.

Secretary Strickler welcomed the committee and thanked them for joining the Technical Advisory Committee. He read the legal statement of Chapter 1283 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, also known as the Caboose Bill.

Secretary Strickler transitioned the meeting to Rear Admiral Phillips. Rear Admiral Ann Phillips did the roll call with appointed Technical Advisory Committee members, appointed members' designated representatives, invited Technical Advisory Committee members, and invited members' designated representatives. The committee members introduced themselves.

Secretary Strickler introduced the staff of the Natural Resources Secretariat and Laura McKay from the Coastal Zone Management program.

#### **Framework Review** - *Secretary Matthew Strickler, Secretary of Natural Resources*

Secretary Strickler gave a presentation discussing the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework, including its guiding principles and primary goals. He highlighted the responsibilities of the TAC and proposed meeting agendas for the next TAC meeting.

#### **Q & A** - *Secretary Matthew Strickler, Secretary of Natural Resources*

Col. Patrick Kinsman commended the Commonwealth's effort on coastal resilience and recommended the Commonwealth do outreach to other Department of Defense (DoD) installations early in the process.

Mr. Tom Crabbs seconded Col. Kinsman's recommendations and suggested inviting a DoD representative with good visibility within the installations throughout the state into the TAC, such as Commander Navy Region mid-Atlantic and subsequent representatives.

Secretary Strickler agreed to take the suggestion under advisement and directed the suggestion to Rear Admiral Phillips. Rear Admiral Phillips said the process is still being worked out since the capacity of the representative from DoD is not yet decided.

Ms. Sallee read a question in the Chat, asking the strategy and timeline for appointing subcommittees to tackle the individual TAC charges.

Secretary Strickler stated that the “charges” outlined in his presentation could serve as a basis for the subcommittee appointments, and invited recommendations from the TAC members. He said there would be decisions made and forwarded to the TAC for consideration to appoint subcommittee members before the next meeting. Dr. Carl Hershner suggested that the subcommittee for project prioritization and protocol would be an immediate need.

Ms. Mary-Carson Stiff asked if the TAC suggestion next meeting would be eligible for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) guidelines since the next TAC meeting will be after the public comment period of the CFPF. Secretary Strickler assured that the TAC suggestions will be taken into account for the CFPF guidelines.

Dr. Karen McGlathery asked Secretary Strickler to elaborate on climate equity issues addressed in the Framework, including strategies to address social equity and expertise within the TAC members. Secretary Strickler said that the guideline of CFPF is a good blueprint for directing resources to communities in need. One of the biggest challenges is to identify the communities in need, and we will need to find appropriate contact to communicate with communities.

Ms. Yewande Austin also asked for strategies for outreach to underserved communities, because issues regarding natural resources might not be the priority of these communities. She advocated for culturally and socially inclusive messages when reaching out to underserved communities.

Ms. Sallee read a question in the Chat, asking if joint land use studies and project prioritization established by consensus will make the criteria for funding consideration for the CFPF. Mr. Joshua Saks answered that the communities would likely have a minimum type of resilience plan for developing guidelines for CFPF, though specific requirements for the types of plans from communities are not decided.

Ms. Ashley Montgomery asked how community outreach is being organized regarding equity and wanted to know more about educating communities. Secretary Strickler stated that Ms. Meryem Karad is working with Rear Admiral Phillips on outreach efforts, and they are coordinating with Ms. Austin from Dr. Underwood’s office to establish an outreach strategy and set up meetings. Ms. Karad later added that the outreach effort is using existing advisory boards including Environmental Justice and African American, Asian, and Latino advisory boards as liaisons to communities. They have experience with getting information to the public despite the difficulties caused by the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Bob Crum commended the administration and Rear Admiral Phillips and stated that Rear Admiral Phillips has already discussed the Framework with local elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) in the Hampton Roads Planning District. On behalf of local elected officials and CAOs, Mr. Crum shared their two comments. The first comment was to stress the importance of public engagement, especially during the COVID pandemic for

underserved communities, and hoped that the consultant of the Master Planning Framework would be involved with the public engagement process. The second comment was regarding the Strategic Relocation Handbook as part of the Master Planning Framework. He stated that though relocation will need to be addressed, it might be unrealistic to finish the Relocation Handbook within 10 months and suggested prioritizing other tasks in the Framework.

Secretary Stricker assured the involvement of the contractor with the outreach effort. He acknowledged Mr. Crum's concern regarding the Relocation Handbook and stated that the Handbook would be serving as a resource for people who are considering the issue.

### **RFP Overview - Rear Admiral Ann Phillips, Special Assistant for Coastal Adaptation and Protection**

Rear Admiral Phillips gave a presentation about the RFP for the Master Plan. She stated that the RFP requested contractor assistance with risk analysis, including the development of a full coastal analysis of current and future sea level rise in nuisance flooding impact on Virginia's eight coastal planning districts and four planning regions as defined by the Framework.

Rear Admiral Phillips stated that with the assistance of the contractor and the advice from the TAC, the plan will develop a prioritized list by region of built infrastructure and natural infrastructure, expand a project database which will support the project prioritization process, and provide structural solutions to protect and sustain functions of prioritized built infrastructures and natural infrastructures.

### **Agency Updates**

The following agencies gave presentations. All of their slides are available on the Natural Resources website [here](#).

*Virginia Department of Emergency Management - Erin Sutton, Chief Deputy of VDEM*  
*Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development - Traci Munyan, Resiliency Program Manager of DHCD*  
*Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Clyde Cristman, Director, DCR*  
*Virginia Department of Environment Quality - David Paylor, Director, DEQ*  
*Virginia Coastal Zone Management - Laura McKay, Director of CZM*

### **Q & A**

Secretary Strickler asked for comments regarding the presentation of agencies.

Ms. Elizabeth Andrews asked if the TAC will adjust its goals in response to the agencies' work. She suggested that this was an opportunity to expand some of the actions in Chapter 1 and 6 in the Framework, and she gave an example of adding a requirement for risk vulnerability assessment whenever state capital funds were used. Secretary Strickler expressed that the TAC is open to these types of recommendations. Ms. Andrews followed up asking if it is appropriate to raise questions and recommendations along the way of TAC meetings. Secretary Strickler agreed and suggested people making similar recommendations during subcommittee meetings, which are still in development.

Ms. Sallee read a question from the Chat asking who will oversee the contractor selected through the RFP. Secretary Stricker responded that while the RFP is going out from the Department of General Services, the Department of Conservation and Recreation is overseeing the RFP. Rear Admiral Phillips will also assist with RFP. He mentioned that there will be a presentation from the selected contractor at the next TAC meeting.

Ms. Stiff asked how the updates of the Tidal Wetland Act (SB776) and The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (HB504) will reconcile their inclusion of climate change and sea level rise. Secretary Strickler explained that there will be coordination between the two legislation processes, though they are in two different agencies and have different regulatory requirements. Secretary Strickler said they are open to suggestions to better coordinate the two processes.

Ms. Sallee read a question from the Chat asking to elaborate on the CFPF, including how “low-income” will be determined, how the loan elements work in the fund and more explanation on the local resilience plan. Secretary Strickler answered that the definition of “low-income” community is in the status of the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act, (HB981) and he apologized for not having the precise language at hand. Secretary Strickler informed that after RGGI proceeds, there will be a capitalized fund to back low and potentially no interest loans for the localities. He asked Stephanie Hamlett from Virginia Resource Authority to elaborate.

Mr. Peter D’Alema from VRA answered that VRA would administer loans based on DCR’s guidelines. Secretary Strickler answered that the locality resilience plan could be helpful for identifying projects important to localities, and the fund will also help localities to put together resilience plans. He emphasized bottom-up solutions.

Ms. Sallee read a question from the Chat asking if DHCD will reprogram funds for existing programs given the influx of RGGI funds. Ms. Munyan redirected the question to Kristen Dahlman. Ms. Dahlman answered that the decision of how the funds will be spent has not been made within the Department, and there will be the first stakeholder meeting on December 15th, 2020 to gather feedback on the DHCD Energy Efficiency fund.

Ms. Jessica Grannis asked if the Framework is participating in the Army Corps of Engineers’ effort to look at the beneficial use of dredged materials and developing a regional sediment management planning process. Secretary Strickler answered yes, and directed the question to Commissioner Steve Bowman.

Mr. Tony Watkinson, Chief Habitat Management Divisions from Marine Resources Commission, answered that they are working with Virginia Beneficial Enhancement Working Group to look at opportunities for dredged material from the Baltimore Channels that go through Virginia. He said they hoped to develop a suite of projects which would capitalize on the dredge materials.

Ms. Grannis wondered if the discussion on dredge material would be part of TAC’s discussion. Secretary Strickler agreed that it would be a component of the discussion.

Ms. Whitney Katchmark asked Ms. McKay if CZM would use an existing structure like the policy team to review the draft deliverable for the consultant. Ms. McKay mentioned that Rear Admiral Phillips is setting up a review committee for the RFP and there is a coastal policy team in CZM which could help with the review process.

Rear Admiral Phillips acknowledged that there is a review committee that includes planning districts, localities, academia, state agencies, and the office of the governor, and there is some overlap with CZM's coastal policy team.

Ms. Katchmark clarified her question and asked about the process of developing deliverables after the contractor is awarded. Secretary Strickler affirmed that the vetting process will go through TAC.

Secretary Strickler asked for public comment. There being none, Secretary Strickler thanked TAC members' participation in the meeting. He stated that the next meeting will be held in Mid-February, and his team will soon put together a subcommittee slate before the next meeting.

Col. Patrick Kinsman suggested that more discussion on the RFP for the next meeting.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned at 3:11pm.